

REMARKS

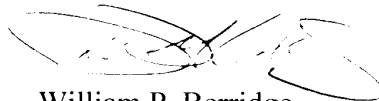
Claims 1-38 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended to include "about" before two numerical values of Example 5 and claim 37 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:DML/zmc

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: January 30, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Specification:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended paragraph:

[0040] Example 3 is repeated, except that an γ -butyrolactone/water mixture is used instead of pure DMSO, wherein the concentration of γ -butyrolactone in water ranges from about 30 to about 100 %w/w. The swelling value measures ≤ 40 %.

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

37. (Amended) A process for forming a material, comprising removing a water-insoluble finish from aramide fibers in accordance with the procedure of claim 1 to derive treated aramide fibers, and subsequently forming the treated aramide fibers into pulp or into a mixture with other fibers ~~or~~ of synthetic or natural origin.